

but facts, and consequently never made any enemies in any sense, being literally esteemed by every one who met him.—
TOM IREDALE, *Australian Museum, Sydney*.

SPIRULA SPIRULA (LINNE)

The following lines were suggested by a paper read by Mr. J. Henry Blake at the meeting of the Boston Malacological Club, October 6, 1925. They may possibly aid in calling the attention of many to the habits of this most interesting mollusk as described by Dr. Johs. Schmidt (*Nature*, vol. 110, p. 788, Dec. 9, 1922). Offered with apologies to the *Dana Expedition*.

The chambered shells of the Spirula,
As they float upon the sea,
Are cast on a thousand beaches
For any one to see;
But the animal that made this shell
Was long a mystery.

Linné called it *Nautilus spirula*
Which was not a very bad guess.
Lamarck called it *Spirula peroni*
(Though he'd first named it *fragilis*);
And thus quite early was started
A nomenclatorial mess.

Some said with that disk-like sucker
Attached it must surely grow,
While the rudimentary fins would prove
As a swimmer it must have been slow;
Then the chromatophores would indicate
That it lived in the mud, you know.

'T was the *Dana Expedition*
That discovered Spirula's home
Far above the oozy bottom
And below the great waves' comb;
For bathypelagic is the Spirula
And there's where it loves to roam.

It only lives in the warmer seas,
At more than a thousand feet,
Suspended head down in the water
A position hard to beat—
Though doubtless it is its chambered shell
That aids it in this feat.

And now they say that the "sucking disk"
Is really a lamp instead,
And perhaps its lighter color is due
To its standing on its head;
But, alas! poor little Spirula
Can't rest in the ocean's bed.

—C. W. JOHNSON.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

TERTIARY FOSSILS DREDGED OFF THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF NORTH AMERICA. By Wm. H. Dall (Amer. Journ. Sci., vol. 10, pp. 213-218, Sept., 1925). The fossils referred to were obtained from small masses of rock taken by trawls on the fishing banks. These prove with little doubt that late Cretaceous and Tertiary deposits originally existed along the northeastern coast from Newfoundland southward. Gay Head, Marthas Vineyard, Mass., is the most northeastern locality where Tertiary fossils in undisturbed position are found.—C. W. J.

ANATOMY OF HENDERSONIA: A PRIMITIVE HELICINID MOLLUSK. By H. B. Baker (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vol. 77, pp. 273-353, 1925). Based on its paucispiral operculum and its radula, *Hendersonia occulta rubella* is considered by the author to be the most primitive living example of the family, except, perhaps, the well-known genus *Bourciera* from Ecuador. The anatomy is shown on four plates.

The Mollusca Collected by the University of Michigan—Williamson Expedition in Venezuela. By H. B. Baker (Occas. papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 167, 49 pp. Feb., 1926). This is the third paper on the Mollusks of this region. It treats chiefly of the families Helicidae, Acavidae and Bulimulidae. The anatomy and radula of the species are shown on four plates.

MATERIALS FOR A REVISION OF THE RECENT INDIAN LIMNÆIDÆ. By the late N. Annandale and H. S. Rao (Rec. Indian Museum, vol. 27, part 3, 1925). This paper is provided with a key for